

UNCLASSIFIED
Department of State

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

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ACTION OCS-06

2037

TEL AV 15407 191315Z POSS DUPE

INFO OCT-01 NEA-07 ADS-00 CA-01 SY-05 SYE-00 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 FBIE-00 L-03 PA-02 ICA-15 DCT-02
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P 191301Z AUG 80
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WACHOC PRIORITY 1073

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 15407

E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: CASC, IS
SUBJECT: FURTHER ISRAELI PRESS REPORTS ON DEVELOPMENTS
- IN BLACK HEBREW COMMUNITY

1. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY'S INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF
ARTICLE WHICH APPEARED IN MA'ARIV, 8/15/80, UNDER
HEADLINE: VETERAN DIMONA INHABITANTS THREATEN; "WE
SHALL COMMIT SUICIDE IF BLACK HEBREWS MANAGE TO GET
IN" -

BEGIN TEXT

AN ATTEMPT BY A GROUP OF BLACK HEBREWS FROM DIMONA TO
RENT AN APARTMENT IN THE NITZAHON (VICTORY) QUARTER OF
THE TOWN RECENTLY RESULTED IN A FUROR, THREATS OF
COLLECTIVE SUICIDE AND IN TENSION BETWEEN VETERAN
INHABITANTS OF THE QUARTER AND MEMBERS OF THE SECT.

THE AFFAIR STARTED WHEN THE GROUP RENTED AN APARTMENT
IN THE NITZAHON QUARTER FROM A WOMAN PAINTER WHO
CURRENTLY RESIDES IN TEL AVIV. THEIR ATTEMPT TO ENTER
THE APARTMENT TWO DAYS AGO WAS FOILED BY INHABITANTS
OF THE BUILDING.

FOLLOWING AN INTERVENTION BY THE SECT'S LEADER, BEN-AMI
CARTER, AND SENIOR ELEMENTS IN THE TOWN, AN AGREEMENT
WAS REACHED ACCORDING TO WHICH THE GROUP OF THE BLACK
HEBREWS WILL ENABLE THE VETERANS TO INSTITUTE LEGAL
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THEIR ENTRANCE TO THE APARTMENT,
BUT IF NO LEGAL ACTION IS TAKEN IN THIS REGARD BEFORE
MONDAY (8/18/80) THE NEW LODGERS WILL BE LET IN.

IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT SUCH AN AGREEMENT WAS REACHED,
THE UNREST IN THE QUARTER CONTINUED TO MOUNT AND A WOMAN
LIVING IN THE APARTMENT NEXT DOOR TRIED TO COMMIT
SUICIDE BY TAKING SLEEPING PILLS.

OTHER INHABITANTS OF THE QUARTER THREATENED TO
COLLECTIVELY COMMIT SUICIDE SHOULD THE BLACKS BE
ALLOWED INTO THE APARTMENT.

YESTERDAY MORNING, A GROUP OF DIMONA INHABITANTS LED
BY A VETERAN RESIDENT OF THE TOWN MET IN THE CITY
HALL WITH MK OR JACQUES AMIR (MK) AND WITH A SENIOR
POLICE OFFICER AND LEADING MUNICIPALITY OFFICIALS. THE
LEADER OF THE GROUP THREATENED TO DO AWAY WITH HIMSELF
IF BLACK FAMILIES ARE ALLOWED TO MOVE INTO THE APARTMENT.
ONE OF THE ARGUMENTS RAISED BY THE VETERANS WAS THAT
LARGE NUMBERS OF BLACK HEBREWS ARE NORMALLY ACCUSTOMED
TO LIVING IN ONE AND THE SAME APARTMENT.

MK JACQUES AMIR LAST NIGHT SENT A TELEGRAM TO INTERIOR
MINISTER YOSEF BURG, IN WHICH HE DESCRIBED THE INCIDENT
THAT TOOK PLACE IN HIS OFFICE AND WARNED THAT THE
AFFAIR IN DIMONA WAS ASSUMING DANGEROUS PROPORTIONS AND
MAY LEAD TO RESULTS THAT WILL COME AS A SHOCK TO THE
ENTIRE STATE.

IN HIS TELEGRAM THE DIMONA MAYOR ASKED MINISTER BURG
TO INTERVENE IN THE MATTER RIGHT AWAY. COPIES OF THE
TELEGRAM WERE ALSO FORWARDED TO THE PREMIER, TO THE
KHESSET INTERIOR COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND TO THE POLICE
INSPECTOR-GENERAL.

END TEXT

2. SIMILAR (THOUGH BRIEFER) ACCOUNT OF STORY APPEARED
IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE JERUSALEM POST SAME DAY. LEVIS

OFFICE OF SECURITY

0118 2010

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR	
REVIEWED BY <u>SL</u>	DATE <u>8/18/80</u>
EDUCATION ELEMENT. DATE	
TO AVE. REASON(S)	
PURPOSE OF TRAVEL MARKING	
PURPOSE OF TRAVEL (RELEASABLE)	
PURPOSE OF TRAVEL	
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS	

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